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14. ABSTRACT

Our research focused on developing and evaluating general, effective, and efficient algorithms for learning of long-term knowledge in autonomous agents, as well as developing cognitive capabilities that exploit that learning. Our work has covered episodic memory, semantic memory, and procedural memory, integrated within a general cognitive architecture (Soar). For episodic memory, our research has led to significant improvements in the efficiency of storage (memory) and retrieval (time) through the exploitation of temporal contiguity, structural regularity, high cue structural selectivity, high temporal selectivity, low cue feature co-occurrence, resulting in no significant slowdown with experience: runs for days of real time (tens of millions of episodes), faster than real time [Laird, Derbinsky, & Voigt 2011; Derbinsky, Li & Laird 2012a]. We evaluated our approach on multiple tasks (including mobile robotics, games, planning problems, linguistics) and for multiple cognitive capabilities [Laird, Derbinsky, & Voigt 2011; Laird & Derbinsky 2011c; Derbinsky, Li & Laird 2012b]. For semantic memory retrieval, we studied and evaluated multiple functions for biasing retrieval, and developed efficient approximate algorithm that maintains high (>90%) validity for base-level activation (the best performing in terms of quality). Our algorithm is 30-100 times faster than prior retrieval algorithms and has sub linear slowdown as memory size increases [Derbinsky, Laird, & Smith 2010; Laird & Derbinsky 2011a; Derbinsky & Laird 2011b]. We also developed algorithms to use semantic memory to support reconstruction of forgotten working memory [Derbinsky & Laird 2011c; Derbinsky & Laird 2012a]. This research was evaluated on multiple domains including word sense disambiguation and mobile robotics. [Derbinsky, Laird, & Smith 2010; Laird, Derbinsky, & Voigt 2011; Derbinsky & Laird 2011b]. We also developed algorithms for retaining/forgetting of knowledge in working memory and procedural memory to improve the scalability of episodic memory and procedural memory [Laird & Derbinsky 2011c; Derbinsky & Laird 2012b; Derbinsky & Laird 2013]. Our final research was on learning value functions for reinforcement learning [Laird, Derbinsky, Tinkerhess 2012; Bloch & Laird 2013].

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Final Report for AOARD Grant FA2386-10-1-4127

"Extending Semantic and Episodic Memory to Support Robust Decision Making"

June 13, 2013

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Abstract: Our research focused on developing and evaluating general, effective, and efficient algorithms for learning of long-term knowledge in autonomous agents, as well as developing cognitive capabilities that exploit that learning. Our work has covered episodic memory, semantic memory, and procedural memory, integrated within a general cognitive architecture (Soar). For episodic memory, our research has led to significant improvements in the efficiency of storage (memory) and retrieval (time) through the exploitation of temporal contiguity, structural regularity, high cue structural selectivity, high temporal selectivity, low cue feature co-occurrence, resulting in no significant slowdown with experience: runs for days of real time (tens of millions of episodes), faster than real time [Laird, Derbinsky, & Voigt 2011; Derbinsky, Li & Laird 2012a]. We evaluated our approach on multiple tasks (including mobile robotics, games, planning problems, linguistics) and for multiple cognitive capabilities [Laird, Derbinsky, & Voigt 2011; Laird & Derbinsky 2011c; Derbinsky, Li & Laird 2012b].

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Our final research was on learning value functions for reinforcement learning [Laird, Derbinsky, Tinkerhess 2012; Bloch & Laird 2013].

List of Publications and Significant Collaborations that resulted from your AOARD supported project

a) papers published in peer-reviewed journals,

- 1. Derbinsky, N., and Laird, J. E. (2013) Effective and efficient forgetting of learned knowledge in Soar's working and procedural memories. Cognitive Systems Research, 24, 104-113.
- 2. Laird, J. E., Derbinsky, N. and Tinkerhess, M. (2012). Online Determination of Value-Function Structure and Action-value Estimates for Reinforcement Learning in a Cognitive Architecture, Advances in Cognitive Systems, Volume 2, 221-238, Palo Alto, California.

b) papers published in peer-reviewed conference proceedings,

3. Derbinsky, N., Li, J., and Laird, J. E. (2012a) Algorithms for Scaling in a General Episodic Memory (Extended Abstract). Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS). Valencia, Spain.

- 4. Derbinsky, N., and Laird, J. E. (2012a) Computationally Efficient Forgetting via Base-Level Activation. Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling (ICCM). 109-110. Berlin, Germany. *Best Poster.*
- 5. Derbinsky, N., and Laird, J. E. (2012b) Competence-Preserving Retention of Learned Knowledge in Soar's Working and Procedural Memories. Proc. of the 11th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling (ICCM). 205-210. Berlin, Germany.
- 6. Derbinsky, N., Li, J., and Laird, J. E. (2012b) A Multi-Domain Evaluation of Scaling in a General Episodic Memory. Proceedings of the 26th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 193-199. Toronto, Canada.
- 7. Li, J., Derbinsky, N., and Laird, J. E. (2012) Functional Interactions Between Encoding and Recognition of Semantic Knowledge. Proceedings of the 26th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence. 228-234 Toronto, Canada.
- 8. Laird, J. E., Derbinsky, N., and Voigt, J. (2011) Performance Evaluation of Declarative Memory Systems in Soar (2011). Proceedings of the 20th Behavior Representation in Modeling & Simulation Conference (BRIMS), 33-40. Sundance, UT.
- 9. Derbinsky, N., and Laird, J. E. (2011a) A Preliminary Functional Analysis of Memory in the Word Sense Disambiguation Task. Proceedings of the 2nd Symposium on Human Memory for Artificial Agents, AISB, 25-29. York, England.
- 10. Derbinsky, N., and Laird, J. E. (2011b) A Functional Analysis of Historical Memory Retrieval Bias in the Word Sense Disambiguation Task. Proceedings of the 25th National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). 663-668. San Francisco, CA.
- 11. Derbinsky, N., and Laird, J. E. (2011c) Effective and Efficient Management of Soar's Working Memory via Base-Level Activation. Papers from the 2011 AAAI Fall Symposium Series: Advances in Cognitive Systems (ACS), 82-89. Arlington, VA.
- 12. Derbinsky, N., Laird, J. E., and Smith, B. (2010) Towards Efficiently Supporting Large Symbolic Declarative Memories. Proc. of the 10th International Conference on Cognitive Modeling (ICCM), 49-54. Philadelphia, PA.
- c) papers published in non-peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings: none
- d) conference presentations without papers: none
- e) manuscripts submitted but not yet published:

Bloch, M., and Laird, J. E. (submitted) Online Value Function Improvement, The First Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making RLDM 2013.

f) interactions with industry or with Air Force Research Laboratory scientists or significant collaborations that resulted from this work.

- We have been in many discussions with AFRL researchers from the PALM research group at Wright Patterson Air Force Base (led by Kevin Gluck) about our research. Our research on semantic memory was inspired in part by research they had done on scaling of long-term declarative memory.
- This work also has been used in other research projects, including part of DARPA BOLT section E, and my two ONR projects managed by Paul Bello.
- Our research is also used in industry, specifically Soar Technology (episodic and semantic memory) and L3 Communications (reinforcement learning).

Attachments: Publications a), b) and c) listed above if possible.

DD882: As a separate document, please complete and sign the inventions disclosure form.